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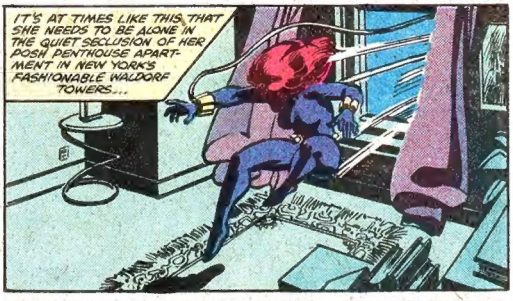
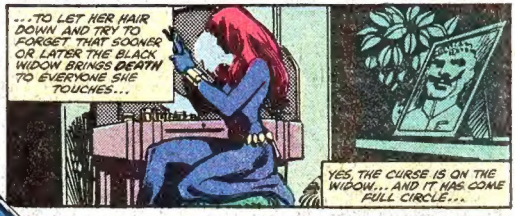
DAREDEVIL®
IN THE HANDS OF BULLSEYE!
MILLER/ABINSON

He dwells in eternal night—but the blackness is filled with sounds and scents other men cannot perceive. Though attorney MATT MURDOCK is *blind*; his other senses function with *superhuman sharpness*—his *radar sense* guides him over every obstacle! He stalks the streets by night, a red-garbed foe of evil!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!®

EPILOGUE··





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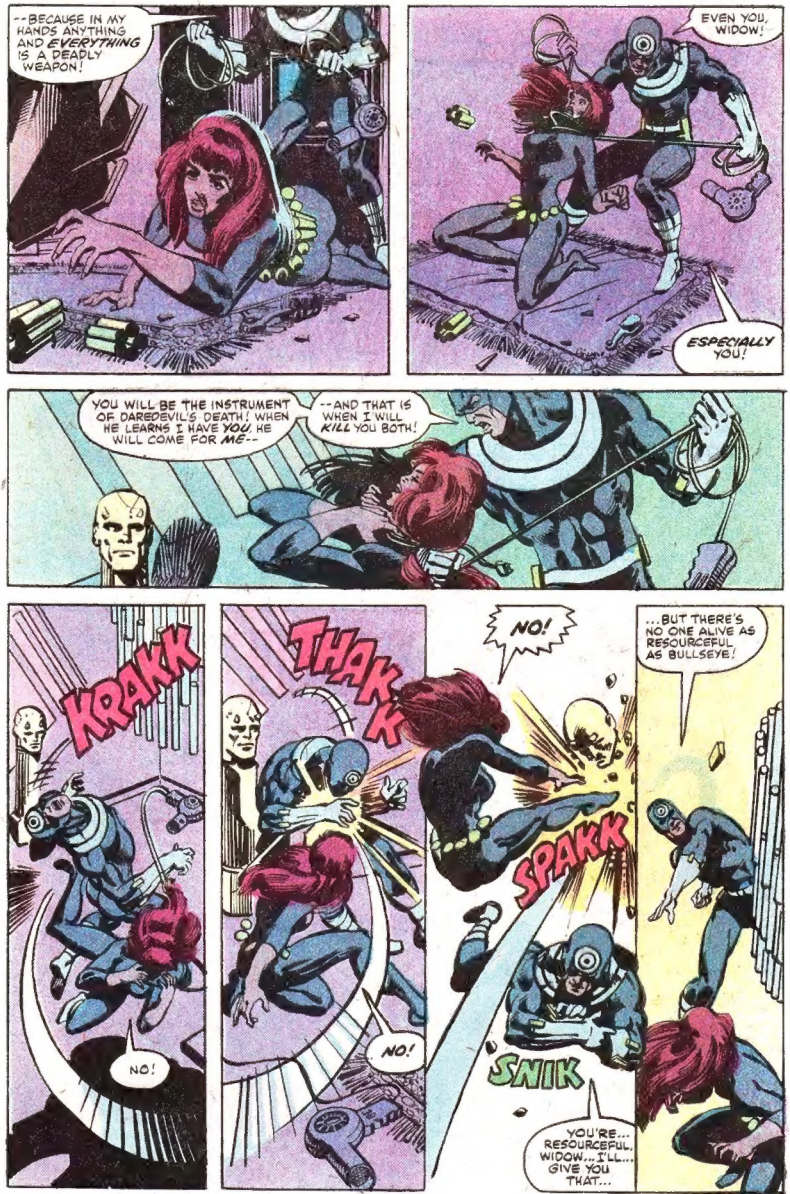
KA
RESSH
I'LL BREAK YOU, WIDOW, JUST AS EASILY AS I SHATTERED THAT MIRROR!
BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH YOU, YOU WILL BEG FOR DEATH!
SPAK
YOU WILL RUN--
--PERHAPS EVEN TRY TO FIGHT, AT FIRST!
BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD--
KATHAK



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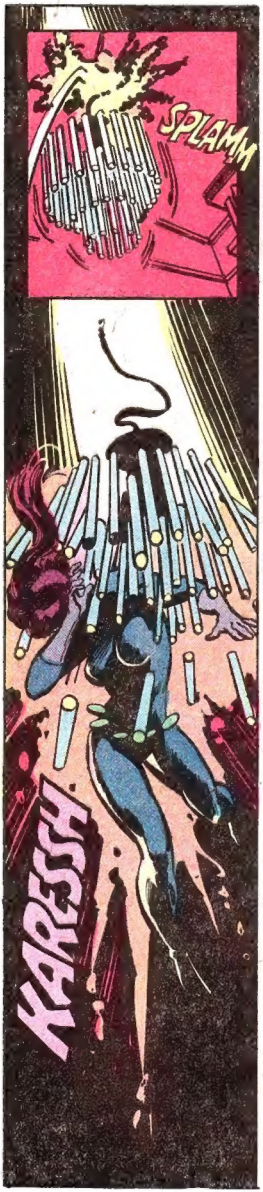
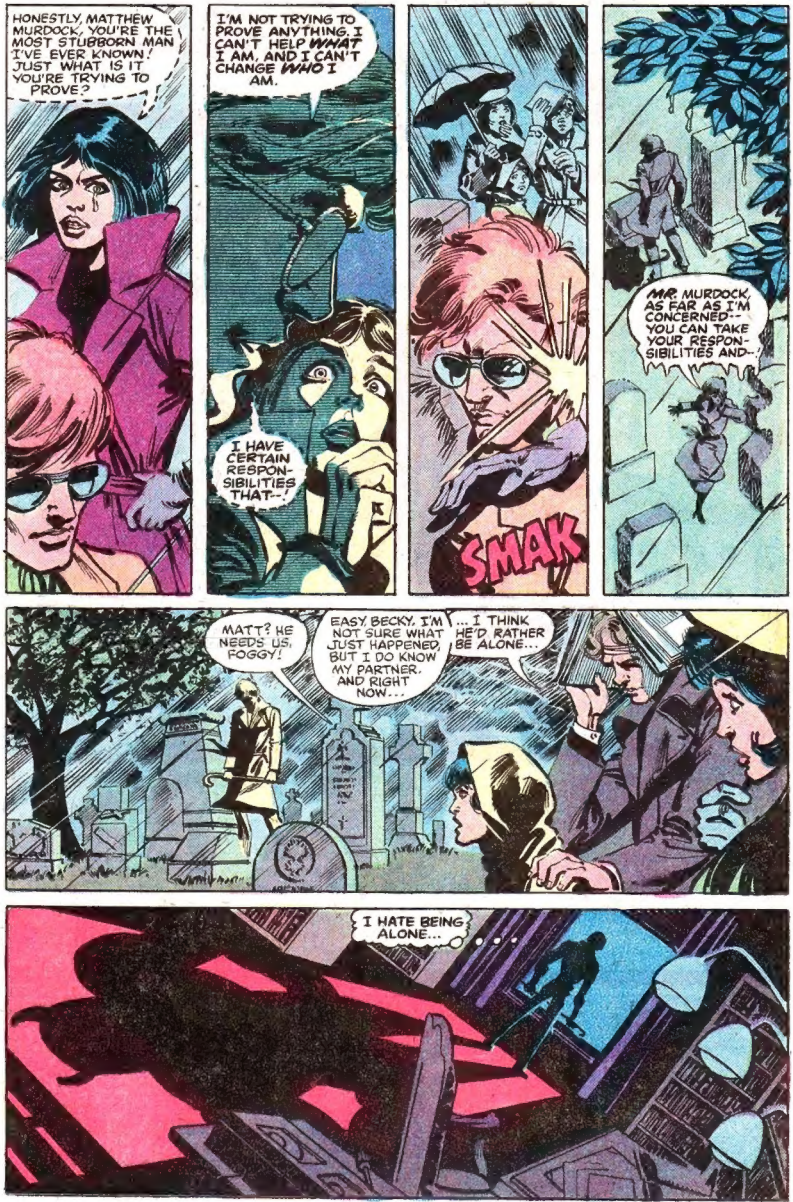

SPLAMM
KARESSH
NO ONE!
NOW, WIDOW, WE WAIT!
SKLEKK
I, FOR REVENGE...
...YOU...AND DAREDEVIL, THE MAN YOU LOVE... FOR DEATH!
I HAVE CHOSEN THE BAIT...
THOK
...THE LURE HAS BEEN SET...
...AND SOON THE TRAP WILL BE SPRUNG!

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLL

MAXWELL GLENN
1924 1995
THEY'RE... WE'RE... HERE BECAUSE WE CARE ABOUT YOU, HEATHER, AND WE THINK IT'S TIME YOU FACED THE TRUTH!
THE TRUTH? DO YOU HONESTLY THINK I DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH?
MY FATHER IS DEAD...
HEATHER, KNOWING THE TRUTH AND LEARNING TO ACCEPT IT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. IF WE HADN'T BROUGHT YOU HERE...
...MAYBE I'D NEVER HAVE COME? IS THAT SUCH A BAD THING, MATT? I'VE LOST MY FATHER AND EVERYONE WHO--!
ACHOO
NOT EVERYONE, DARLING...
HAVEN'T I, MATT?
WHEN I... WHEN MY FATHER... NEEDED YOU MOST, YOU WERE ALWAYS TOO BUSY PLAYING DAREDEVIL TO HELP US.
PLEASE, MATT, PROMISE ME YOU WON'T EVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.
MATT...?
WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ME?



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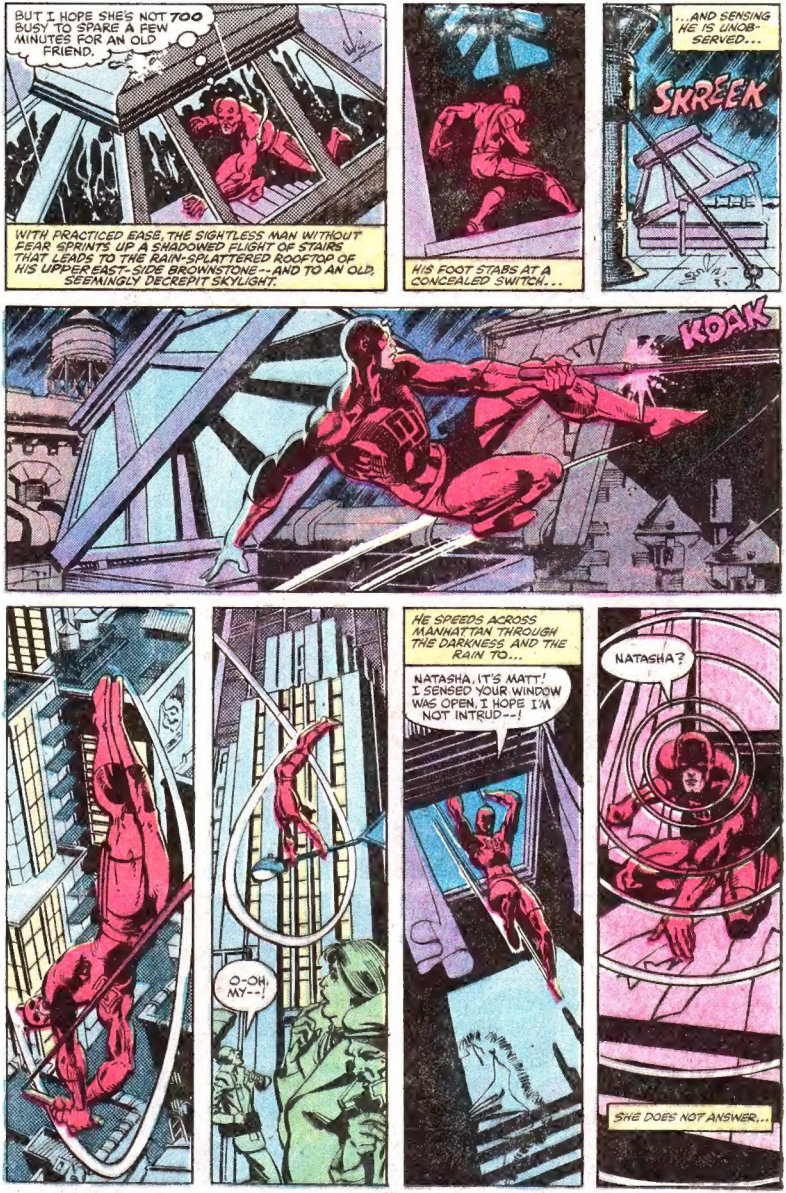
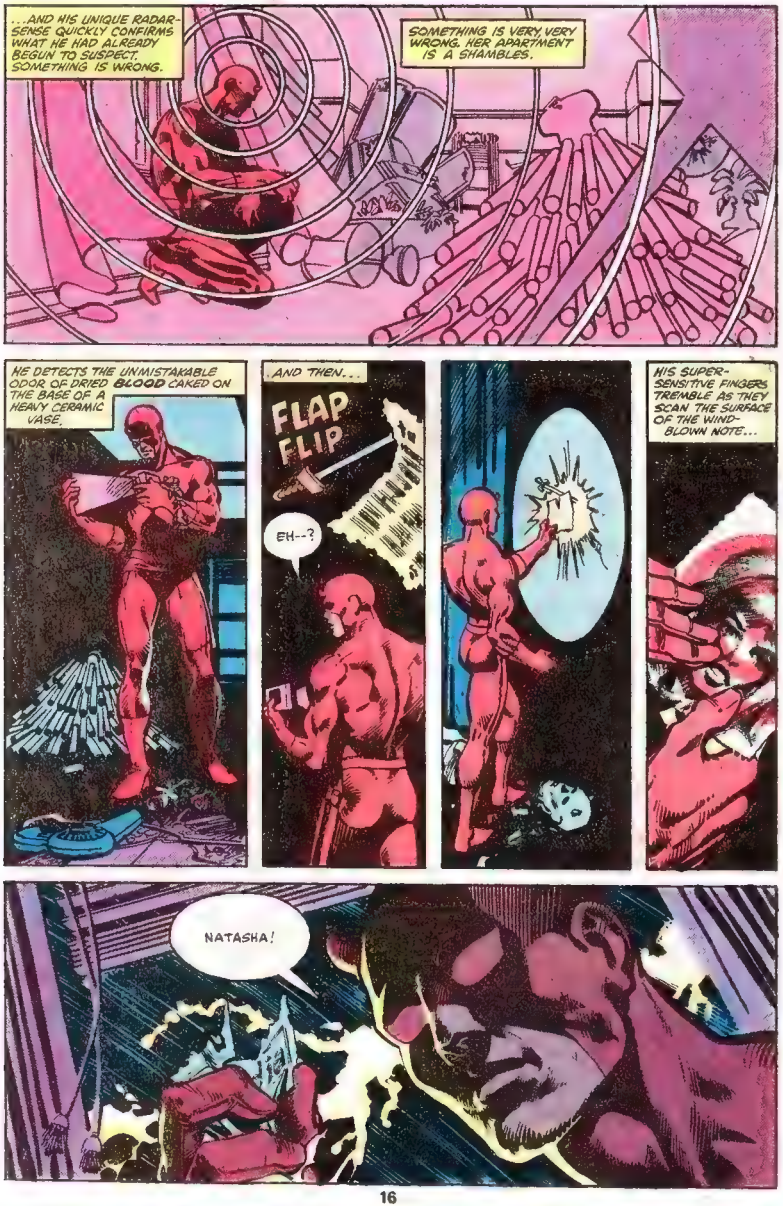
I WISH HEATHER AND I COULD HAVE BEEN MORE LIKE THAT COUPLE.
THEY DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD.
I CAN'T BLAME HEATHER FOR BEING BITTER, BUT SHE IS WRONG ABOUT ONE THING. I DON'T LIVE UNDER THE SHADOW OF DAREDEVIL.
IF ANYTHING I LIVE UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE PROMISE I MADE MY FATHER YEARS AGO.
I SWORE TO HIM I'D MAKE SOMETHING OF MYSELF, AND I THINK I'VE SUCCEEDED... BOTH AS MATT MURDOCK...
...AND AS DAREDEVIL...
BUT SOMETIMES I JUST GET SO BLAMED LONELY... I NEED SOMEBODY TO TALK TO.
SOMEONE WHO CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH.
SOMEONE LIKE... NATASHA.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN SEVERAL DAYS...
POK
TAK
...I GUESS SHE'S BEEN TIED UP.


BUT I HOPE SHE'S NOT TOO BUSY TO SPARE A FEW MINUTES FOR AN OLD FRIEND.
WITH PRACTICED EASE, THE SIGHTLESS MAN WITHOUT FEAR SPRINTS UP A SHADOWED FLIGHT OF STAIRS THAT LEADS TO THE RAIN-SPLATTERED ROOFTOP OF HIS UPPER EAST-SIDE BROWNSTONE--AND TO AN OLD, SEEMINGLY DECREPIT SKYLIGHT.
HIS FOOT STABS AT A CONCEALED SWITCH...
...AND SENSING HE IS UNOBSERVED...
SKREEK
KOAK
O-OH, MY--!
HE SPEEDS ACROSS MANHATTAN THROUGH THE DARKNESS AND THE RAIN TO...
NATASHA, IT'S MATT! I SENSED YOUR WINDOW WAS OPEN, I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUD--!
NATASHA?
SHE DOES NOT ANSWER...


...AND HIS UNIQUE RADAR-SENSE QUICKLY CONFIRMS WHAT HE HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO SUSPECT. SOMETHING IS WRONG.
SOMETHING IS VERY VERY WRONG. HER APARTMENT IS A SHAMBLES.
HE DETECTS THE UNMISTAKABLE ODOR OF DRIED BLOOD CAKED ON THE BASE OF A HEAVY CERAMIC VASE.
...AND THEN...
FLAP
FLIP
EH--?
HIS SUPER-SENSITIVE FINGERS TREMBLE AS THEY SCAN THE SURFACE OF THE WIND-BLOWN NOTE...
NATASHA!

LATER, AT THE DAILY BUGLE...
OH, NO! NOT ANOTHER SPIDER-MAN EXPOSE!
...JUST WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE ON BULLSEYE?
NOTHING WE DIDN'T PRINT, DAREDEVIL. HIS ESCAPE WAS FRONT PAGE NEWS. I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT.
I'VE BEEN BUSY LATELY. COULD YOU FILL ME IN? IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!
I'LL BE GLAD TO... IF YOU TELL ME HOW LONG YOU'VE KNOWN MATT MURDOCK.
A WHILE. NOW, ABOUT BULLSEYE...
HARD WORK NEVER HURT ANYBODY
WELL...
PRIOR TO HIS ARRAIGNMENT ON SIX COUNTS OF ATTEMPTED MURDER, HE WAS TAKEN TO BELLEVUE FOR PSYCHIATRIC OBSERVATION.
ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES HE WAS A MODEL PRISONER--
"--UNTIL FOUR DAYS AGO!"
...AND YOU SAY YOUR FATHER BEAT YOU?
YES, UNTIL I WAS FOURTEEN.
HMMM, I SEE. AND WHAT HAPPENED THEN?
I KILLED HIM.

CONTINUED

LET'S LEVEL WITH DAREDEVIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
MARY JO DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Bullpen Without Fear,

DAREDEVIL #157 was another first-rate issue of what has remained one of MARVEL'S premiere magazines. I particularly liked seeing DD battling alongside the Avengers and hope we will see them together more in the future.

You had better answer all those questions concerning Death-Stalker next issue. He's been plaguing DD for one heck of a long time now, and I think it's about time we found out something about him.

Kudos to Jo Duffy! She seems to be one of the fastest rising younger members of the Bullpen, though come to think of it, one does seem to remember seeing her around for quite some time. . .

Anyway, the scripting was superb!

David J. Estrin
OCMR #2941
Oberlin, OH 44074

Ramblin' Rog replies: **"David, your letter pretty much sums up Marveldom's reaction to DD #157 in general and Jo (Cool) Duffy's script in particular.**

"In fact, of all the mail we received. . .and there was plenty. . . there was only *one* negative response to Mary Jo's work. (And you know who you are, don't you, Ed Via? But don't worry, I'll get on your case in a minute or two. . .)

"But you did make one mistake, Dave. Mary Jo doesn't just *seem* to be one of the fastest rising younger members of the Bullpen. She *is*.

"And if you like what she did with DAREDEVIL, you'll love what she's doing with POWER MAN/IRON FIST.

"Through a change in editors and three separate changes in artists, Jo has kept DAREDEVIL running on an even keel, and I'd like to thank her publicly now for jumping in at the last minute—when deadline conflicts made it impossible for me to script #157—and doing just an incredible job!"

Dear Marvel,

Who is Death-Stalker?

I haven't the foggiest notion. And neither does anybody else who read DAREDEVIL #157 unless they've spotted clues in prior issues or are a lot better at playing guessing games than I am.

There's no reason any of us should know who he is however, just because the "Next Issue" blurb at the end of #156 clearly inferred we'd learn the answer in #157!

God knows it wasn't needed. Not when Roger McKenzie and Mary Jo Duffy could fill the pages of this month's outing with thrilling fare such as Matt Murdock's trying to decide whether to take Heather out to dinner or Natasha Romanoff to the ballet. And heaven forbid something so trivial as keeping a promise should get in the way of a fight scene featuring The Unholy Three.

Promise-keeping, after all, doesn't sell comic books anywhere near as well as furniture-smashing.

Instead of a Death-Stalker origin story that would serve as the lead-in to the big showdown between him and DD, the issue contained a rather lackluster encounter between the two that took all of five pages followed by twelve pages of tedium broken only by a charming sequence which hinted that DD and the Black Widow may get back together again.

With the exception of this one sequence, however, the pacing was bad, the plot was uninspired, and the dialogue was one step above abysmal.

Ironically, *this* issue's final words were something to the effect that Roger McKenzie would welcome a new penciler next time as "Death-Stalker makes—A Grave Mistake!" Well, pulling Gene Colan off the book is as grave a mistake as I can think of, except perhaps, for promising to unmask Death-Stalker and then failing to do so.

Ed Via
1648 Dean Rd.
Roanoke, VA 24081

Ramblin' Rog again: **"Ed, I'm sorry about the next-issue snafu in DD #156. It was my mistake, and I take the blame. But it was an honest mistake. It wasn't done to deliberately trick you into buying the next issue.**

"I hope DD #158 more than made up for it. Let me know what you think, and I'll pass it along to the rest of the readers, fair enough?

"But since you mentioned Gene Colan, let me clear something up. Something I would have thought a knowledgeable fan like yourself would already be aware of. Apparently I was wrong.

"Nobody 'pulled' Gene off DD. He was gracious enough to help us out in a pinch when we didn't have a regular artist for the book. Gene, as you know, drew DD for more issues than any other artist. And eventually he felt he'd done all he could, artistically, with the strip. It was time to move on to other projects. . .which he did with a vengeance.

"But when the chips were down, he came through with four memorable issues for which I'll always be grateful.

"But nobody took Gene back off the book at some perverse whim. He left of his own volition and with our blessings when we felt we'd found a suitable permanent artist for the book.

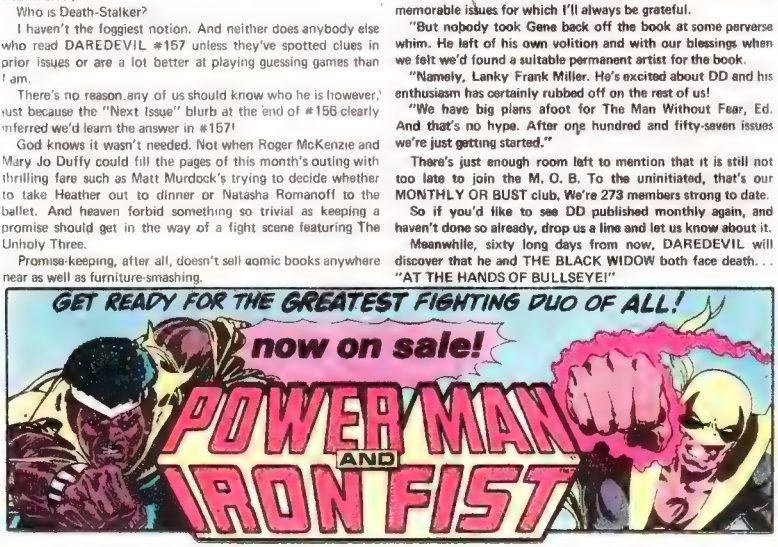
"Namely, Lanky Frank Miller. He's excited about DD and his enthusiasm has certainly rubbed off on the rest of us!

"We have big plans afoot for The Man Without Fear, Ed. And that's no hype. After one hundred and fifty-seven issues we're just getting started."

There's just enough room left to mention that it is still not too late to join the M. O. B. To the uninitiated, that's our MONTHLY OR BUST club. We're 273 members strong to date.

So if you'd like to see DD published monthly again, and haven't done so already, drop us a line and let us know about it.

Meanwhile, sixty long days from now, DAREDEVIL will discover that he and THE BLACK WIDOW both face death. . . "AT THE HANDS OF BULLSEYE!"



SPAK

"BEFORE ANYONE COULD STOP HIM, HE TOOK A NURSE AS HOSTAGE..."

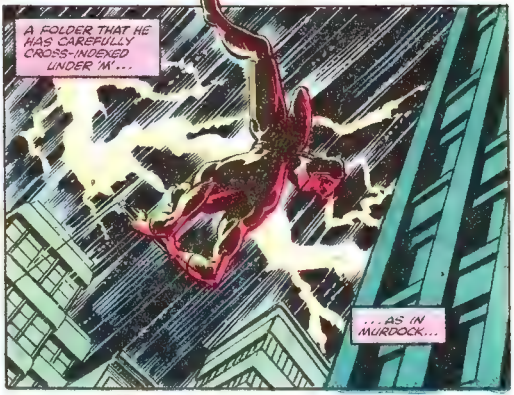
EXIT
S-SURE... JUST T-TAKE IT EASY...
STEP AWAY FROM THAT DOOR MISTER! NOW!

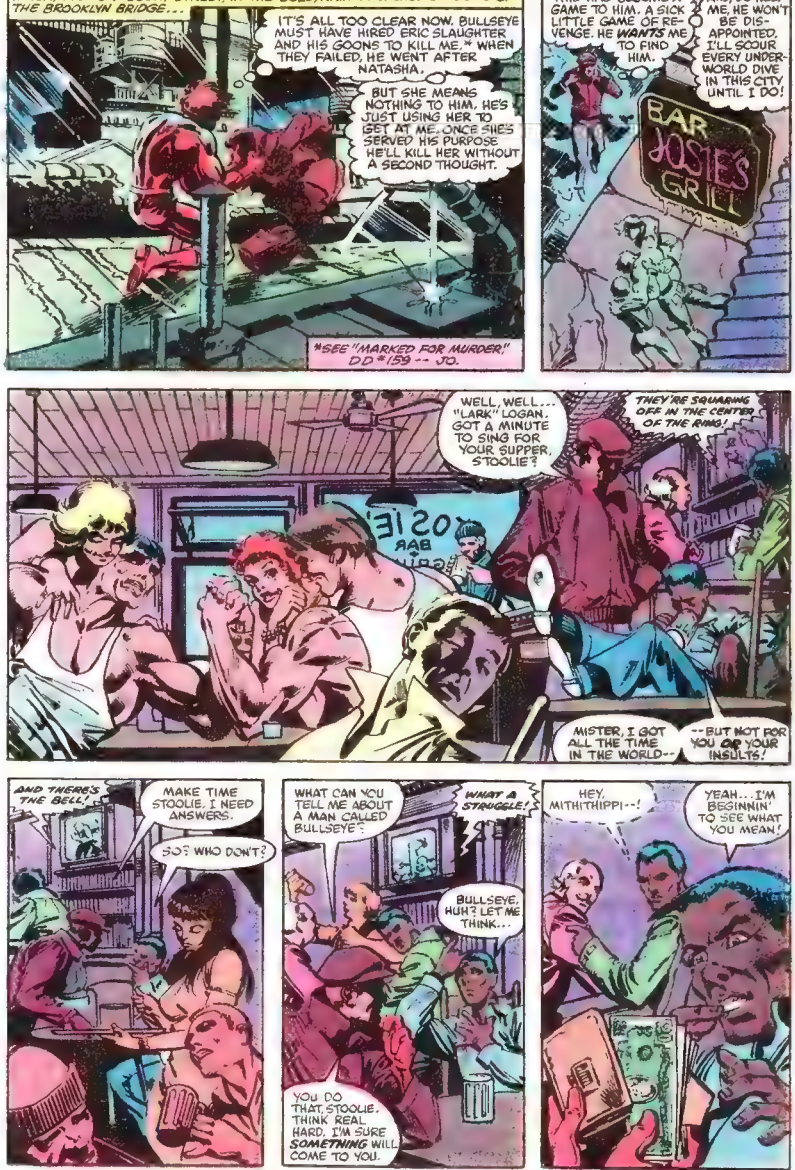
"...AND BLASTED HIS WAY TO FREEDOM!"
BLAMM

"HE FLED IN A STOLEN POLICE CRUISER THAT WAS LATER FOUND ABANDONED IN QUEENS--
SKREE
"--AND BY NOW HE'S PROBABLY LONG--

--GONE...
BEN URICH STUDIES THE OPEN WINDOW FOR SEVERAL MINUTES BEFORE CROSSING THE BUSTLING NEWSROOM...

...TO REMOVE ANOTHER FOLDER FROM HIS FILES.


A FOLDER THAT HE HAS CAREFULLY CROSS-INDEXED UNDER 'M'...
...AS IN MURDOCK...



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UH-OH--! THE CHANO'S IN REAL TROUBLE, MOW!
I HEARD HE'S DOING BUSINESS WITH A BUM NAMED ERYC SLAUGHTER.
WHA--?
SHH--! NOT SO LOUD, MAN! YOU TRYIN' TO GET US BOTH KILLED? YOU GO MESSIN' IN THAT DUDE'S AFFAIRS, HE'LL COME DOWN ON US LIKE A TON OF BRICKS!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M HOPING FOR. I'VE GOT TO FORCE HIS HAND-- DRIVE HIM OUT IN THE OPEN. HE'S MY ONLY LEAD TO BULLSEYE.
AND JUDGING BY THE NUMBER OF HEARTBEATS THAT SPED UP AT THE MENTION OF HIS NAME, I THINK I JUST STRUCK PAYDIRT!
PUTH THE DRINK DOWN, MITHER! NITHE AN' THLOW!
HELLO, TURK. HOW'S THE JAW?
I'M ONLY GONNA ASK YOU ONCE. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH MR. SLAUGHTER?
NOTHING. I WANT BULLS-EYE.
AND I DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE WITH THE COPS, TURK! PUT THAT ROD AWAY-- NOW!
AW, JOTHIE...
OH, MOMMA--! WHAT A PUNCH!
KRAKK
YOU HEARD THE LADY!
AND, THE NEXT INSTANT...
WATCH OUT!
HEY! WHERE'D HE GO?
WHY, YOU LITTLE--!
I DUNNO! I NEVER SAW NO-BODY MOVE THAT FAST--
--EXCEPT... NAW. IT CAN'T BE! NOT HERE!

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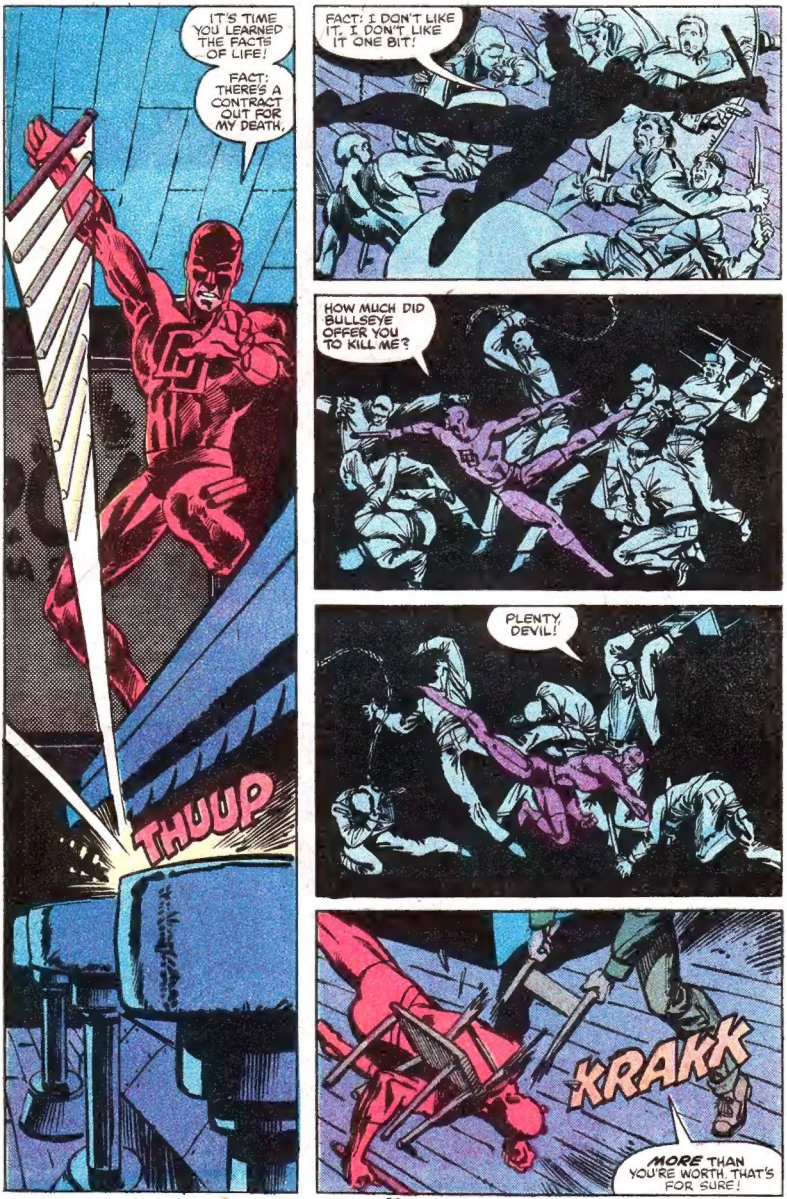
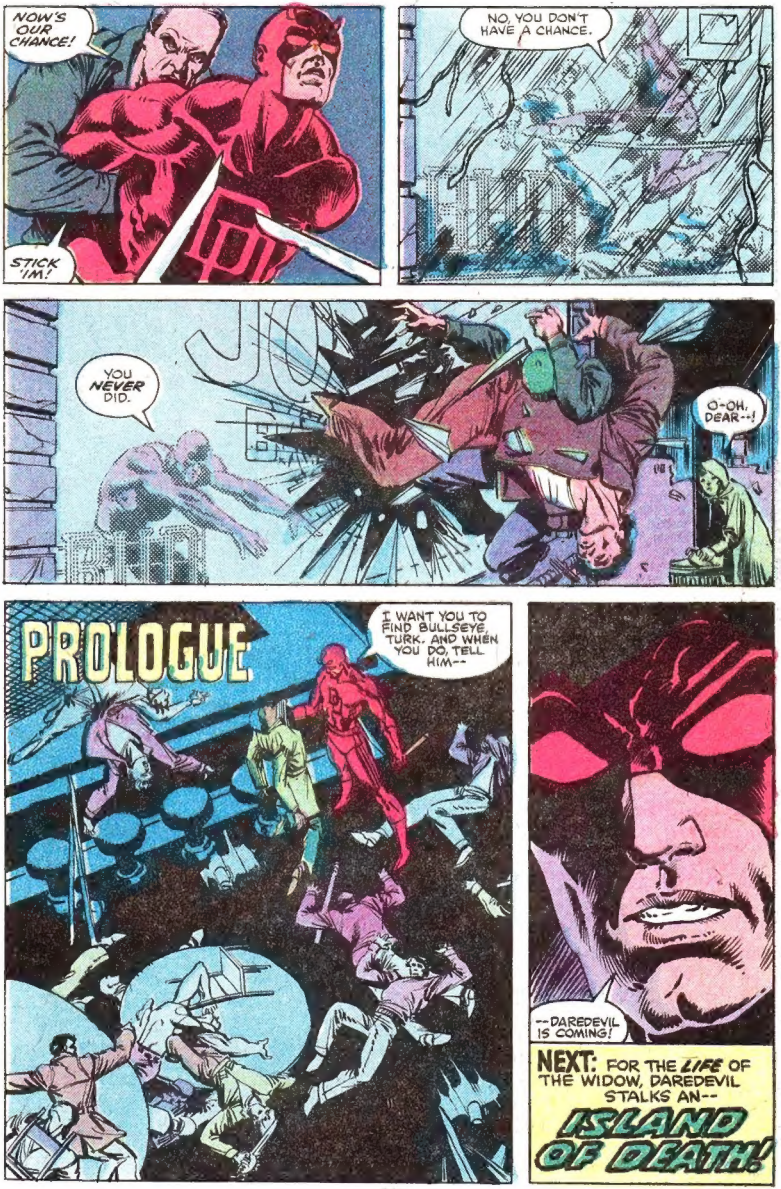

IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED THE FACTS OF LIFE!
FACT: THERE'S A CONTRACT OUT FOR MY DEATH.
THUUP
FACT: I DON'T LIKE IT. I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT!
HOW MUCH DID BULLSEYE OFFER YOU TO KILL ME?
PLENTY, DEVIL!
KRAKK
MORE THAN YOU'RE WORTH, THAT'S FOR SURE!


NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
STICK 'IM!
NO, YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE.
YOU NEVER DID.
O-OH, DEAR--!
PROLOGUE
I WANT YOU TO FIND BULLSEYE, TURK. AND WHEN YOU DO, TELL HIM--
--DAREDEVIL IS COMING!
NEXT: FOR THE LIFE OF THE WIDOW, DAREDEVIL STALKS AN--
ISLAND OF DEATH!